

Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

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Council Member
Mike Sullivan



900 Bagby, First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

17629 El Camino Real
Suite 415
Houston, TX 77058

PHONE:
832.393.3008

FAX:
832.393.3279

E-MAIL:
DistrictE@houston.tx.gov

facebook

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www.houston.tx.gov

Residents of District E,

July proved to be a very busy month in the District E Council office. We held a groundbreaking for a new community center, participated in numerous events, attended chamber meetings, voted on important issues, fought for my constituents on a regular basis, continued to watch the red light camera debacle, monitored implementation of the new drainage fee, conducted city council committee meetings, and made preparations for the start of the new school year.

Lake Houston is in my council district, as are all three of the city's water purification plants. That is one reason that I asked Mayor Bill White to create the Water Resources Management Committee in 2008, which he quickly agreed to do. It has been an honor for me to serve as Chair of the committee ever since, guiding long range planning for our water needs for generations to come. We are also reviewing what is called "Chapter 23" which governs the use of Lake Houston. As it grows and develops, we need to ask ourselves, "what do we want the lake to be, and what activities should be allowed or prohibited?" The discussions are ongoing, but I hope to have a vote on these revisions from city council by the end of this year.

I want to thank State Representative Dan Huberty for his proactive attention to the quality of Lake Houston. (*Representative Huberty was voted "Rookie of the Year" by Texas Monthly magazine*). Among his achievements was his sponsorship and passage of a bill that restricts discharges into the San Jacinto River. Such discharges have been from various sand mines and other commercial operations, all of which negatively impact our water quality. Senator Tommy Williams filed the companion bill in the Senate, and I want to recognize him for his efforts as well. It is a pleasure to work with two such outstanding elected officials.

The start of school is just around the corner. In the weeks leading up to it, I have met with HPD substations to ensure that officers are focused on both student safety and traffic congestion relief. We will continue to deploy selected assets to certain areas, and assist our school district and college police to ensure that students can get to school, and commuters are able to get to the freeway to get to work. Both are high priorities for me, as they have been since being elected. I appreciate the assistance of both the Kingwood and Clear Lake substations, as well as the HPD Traffic Enforcement Division.

Lastly, I want to welcome Allie VanDeventer as my new South Sector Manager. Allie will be responsible for all activities south of I-10, and will also assist me with certain city council committee assignments. She comes to us from State Representative Byron Cook's office, where she was Director of Special Projects.

Mike Sullivan
Council Member

HFD Station Visits



Council Member Sullivan with Station 104 B Shift.



Council Member Sullivan with Station #11 Shift.

Every month, Council Member Sullivan makes a point to visit with the fire fighters in his district. This month, he went on a ride along with Station 11, had breakfast with Station 104 B-shift and visited Station 101 in Kingwood. As he visited, he made sure that each station was prepared with the appropriate equipment and supplies needed to respond to emergency calls. He also visited with the fire fighters about various issues affecting the city at this time including the budget, current events and public safety related issues. Council Member Sullivan thanks District Fire Chief Steve Sparks for hosting him at both stations and looks forward to visiting with the crews in his district again soon.



Council Member Sullivan rides with Mounted Patrol Officers.

Kingwood 4th of July Parade

Council Member Sullivan rode horseback along Mayor Annise Parker for a second year, at Kingwood's annual 4th of July parade. Houston Police Department's Lake Patrol and Mounted Patrol officers also participated in the event. The parade is a favorite tradition in Kingwood, as residents enjoy lining West Lake Houston Parkway and Kingwood Drive to watch it every year.

STS-135 Shuttle Atlantis Crew Return

At 11:29 a.m. EDT, July 8, 2011 Shuttle Atlantis lifted off into space for the last time. The crew of four veteran astronauts, Commander Chris Ferguson, Pilot Doug Hurley, and Mission Specialists Sandy Magnus and Rex Walheim, set off on the STS-135 mission to deliver a stockpile of supplies and parts to the space station. Thousands gathered near Kennedy Space Center to view NASA's Space Shuttle Program take off for the last time.

Council Member Mike Sullivan then greeted the STS-135 Crew July 22, 2011 at Ellington Airport during the final Shuttle Return Ceremony. A huge crowd welcomed home the STS-135 astronauts and celebrated a successful 13 day mission on Space Shuttle Atlantis. This was NASA's final flight on Space Shuttle Atlantis, and ended its 30 year career with its 135th flight of Space Shuttle Program.



NASA-JSC Director Mike Coats with STS-135 Crew.

Ground Breaking for Kingwood Community Center



Director Joe Turner, CM Sullivan, Jeff Nelson with Senator Williams's office, and Director Minnix.



Council Member Sullivan breaks ground with City and Community Representatives.

On Tuesday, July 12 Council Member Sullivan hosted a ground breaking ceremony at the site of the new Kingwood Community Center. Council Member Sullivan has worked tirelessly with the administration and the Parks and Recreation Department to have this project approved and started on schedule. City Council awarded the contract for the construction of the community center to Hassell Construction Company, Inc. June 1, 2011 for \$2,295,272.00. The Kingwood Community Center will be located at 4102 Rustic Woods, site of the former Kingwood Library. Jeff Nelson of Senator Tommy Williams's office also attended and presented a flag that flew over the State Capitol to Council Member Sullivan for the Kingwood Community Center.

Proclamation Presentation to SWA 40th Anniversary

On Tuesday, July 12, Council Member Sullivan had the pleasure of presenting a proclamation to Southwest Airlines for their 40th Anniversary celebration. Southwest Airlines started flight service in 1971 and incorporated in the same year with three Boeing 737 aircrafts to serve Houston, Dallas and San Antonio, Texas. Southwest Airlines has grown significantly earning numerous awards, including having the lowest number of passenger complaints reported to the U.S. Department of Transportation, ranked in the top 150 of Newsweek's 2010 Green Rankings and named Greenest Airline by Climate Counts in 2011. Council Member Sullivan commends Southwest Airlines for their dedication to customer service and congratulates them for their 40 years of service.



Council Member Sullivan with Sherri Hull and Southwest Airline employees

Meeting with Houston Association of Realtors (HAR)

On Friday, July 15, 2011, Council Member Sullivan visited with the Houston Association of Realtors to hear about issues of importance to their members, the housing industry, and upcoming issues. He thanks Dana Kervin, HAR Chief Political Strategist, for always keeping realtor issues at the forefront.



Council Member Sullivan and Members of the HAR.



Council Member Sullivan listens to a member of the audience.

Water Resources Management Committee

On Thursday, July 14 Council Member Sullivan chaired the Water Resources Management Committee meeting to discuss the status of the Southeast Water Purification Plant (SEWPP). Public Works Director Dan Krueger gave a presentation on the operations, maintenance, budget and audit of the SEWPP. In addition, Deputy Director Jun Chang presented the 2011 Consumer Confidence Report to the committee. This report included discussion of the City of Houston's water quality.

Proclamation Presentation to Major General Regua

On July 14, 2011, Council Member Sullivan attended the Changing of the Guard ceremony for Major General Eldon P. Regua, Division Commander of the 75th Mission Command Training Division, headquartered in Houston Texas. Council Member Sullivan presented Major General Regua with a proclamation, commending him for his achievements and declaring it, Major General Eldon P. Regua Day in the City of Houston. As well, Council Member Sullivan had the opportunity to stand in the receiving line and personally greet the brave men and women of the United States Army attending the event.



Council Member Sullivan with Major General Regua.

Change of Command Ceremony

On July 16, Council Member Sullivan was invited to attend, the Change of Command Ceremony for the U. S. Army's 75th Mission Command Training Division between Major General Eldon P. Regua and Brigadier General Jimmie Jaye Wells, promotable. The event was held at Ellington Field and was attended by Division Command Staff and honored guest from across the US. Council Member Sullivan felt that it was a real privilege to observe this time honored tradition and thanks these brave men for their service.



Council Member Sullivan and Col. Egger greet Major General Regua



Council Member Sullivan and Jeff Weatherford.

Meeting with Jeff Weatherford

On July 20, 2011, Council Member Sullivan met with Public Works Deputy Director Jeff Weatherford regarding traffic improvements within District E. Mr. Weatherford updated the Council Member about several projects in the Kingwood area including the Wimax antennas being presently installed and the proposed installation of signal backup batteries. The Wimax antenna will allow the Public Works department to remotely monitor intersections at the Transtar Center and increase response time to incidents. In addition, Mr. Weatherford informed the Council Member about the proposed installation of signal backup batteries that will be installed in the City beginning in Kingwood.

Flag Presentation to Kingwood Library

On Monday, July 25, Council Member Sullivan attended a Flag Presentation Ceremony at the Kingwood Library. The American and Texas flags were donated by U.S. Representative Ted Poe and State Representative Dan Huberty, respectively. The colors were posted by Boy Scout Troop 1377.



Council Member Sullivan with Rep. Huberty and Boy Scout Troop 1377.

HPD Lake Patrol

On July 25, Council Member Sullivan met with Lake Patrol Sergeant Tolan Harding regarding the construction of the new lake patrol classroom. The classroom overhaul is needed after sustaining major damage during Hurricane Ike. The City has torn down the old structure and is replacing it with a 420 square foot modular classroom. The classroom will allow Lake Patrol to offer boating safety courses for the community and in house maritime training for city personnel.



Council Member Sullivan and Sgt. Harding discuss the floor plan for the new classroom.

Military Appreciation Day at Houston Dynamo Game



Council Member Sullivan with Dynamo President Chris Canetti and fellow sponsors of Military Appreciation Day.

On Saturday, July 30, 2011, Council Member Mike Sullivan attended the Houston Dynamo's Fourth Annual Military Appreciation Night with more than 1,500 members of the U.S. Armed Forces in attendance. The Council Member had the privilege to present a proclamation to Chris Canetti, Dynamo President, as well as participate in "Brad's Brigade," a full-scale effort by Houston Dynamo midfielder, Brad Davis. This initiative honors the military and invites fans to donate tickets for military families to attend the match. Following the big win, the Dynamo players hosted a meet and greet with military personnel and fans. During the event, certificates were presented to all branches of military from Council Member Sullivan in appreciation of their service for our country.

HPD Training Academy

On July 27, 2011, Council Member Sullivan visited the HPD Police academy and observed the current class of cadets during their DWI training operations. During the Council Members visit, the cadets were being tested on their ability properly administer field sobriety tests. Council Member was able to learn about the process and meet with HPD instructors, cadets, and representatives from the local chapter of M.A.D.D., Mothers Against Drunk Driving.



Council Member Sullivan and HPD Cadet Instructors.

Allie VanDeventer–South Sector Manager

Allie VanDeventer comes to us from nearby Liberty, Texas. She is a 2010 graduate of Texas State University in San Marcos with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies. While attending Texas State she served her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, as President. She was also active in many other student organizations and was a part of the Texas State Honors Program.

After graduation, she was hired at the Texas State Capitol in Austin where she served District 8 Representative, Byron Cook, as Director of Special Projects. Allie also assisted the Chief Committee Clerk of State Affairs, while Mr. Cook chaired that committee during the 82nd Legislative Session. In her time with Representative Cook she enjoyed greeting and assisting constituents, working day to day with state agency staff, business and association representatives.

While she loved the Capitol, Allie is a very family oriented, small town girl at heart and desired to be closer to her hometown. She is excited to bring her legislative and constituent support experience to our district. She looks forward to getting to know and to serving the constituents of District E as their South Sector Manager.



Allie VanDeventer–South Sector Manager

Bracewell Library

Council Member Sullivan is pleased to announce that the new Bracewell Library will reopen for Saturday service effective 10:00 a.m. Saturday, August 13, 2011. The library will be open from Tuesday through Saturday, and will be closed Sundays and Mondays. The change in hours comes after careful review of usage patterns, and in response to the communities' requests for Saturday access to the library. Council Member Sullivan thanks Mayor Parker and Library Director Dr. Rhea Lawson for working to ensure these changes were made.

Rebuild Houston Appeals Process Amended

City Council voted to approve an addition to the appeals process on Wednesday, July 20, 2011. As an avid opponent of the Rebuild Houston Drainage fee, Council Member Mike Sullivan fought hard to ensure an additional appeal was added to the process. Residents now have an opportunity to appeal an initial judgment by a hearing examiner, to a panel of three hearing examiners. The hearing examiners shall be chosen randomly by the Director and may not include the hearing examiner who previously ruled on that particular case. Additionally, property owner will be given an unlimited period of time to appeal the initial fee calculation. Property owners will also be given an unlimited period of time to appeal a fee calculation when there is a change in property ownership.

District E Town Hall Meetings

Council Member Sullivan invites his constituents to attend the upcoming town hall meetings he is hosting this Fall. Constituent services are of utmost priority to the council member. His town hall meetings act as a platform for District E residents to hear about project updates and to give the community the opportunity to voice their concerns, questions and suggestions.

SOUTH

Sept. 7 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. University of Houston – Clear Lake
Garden Room, Bayou Building
2700 Bay Area Blvd

NORTH

October 3 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Creekwood Middle School
3603 W. Lake Houston Parkway

For more information, please contact Council Member Sullivan's office at (832) 393-3008.

Mandatory Water Conservation

Water Restrictions



**ONLY WATER BEFORE 10 AM
OR AFTER 8 PM ON**

***Even-Numbered Addresses
Sundays and Thursdays***

***Odd-Numbered Addresses
Saturdays and Wednesdays***

For More Information Call 311 or 713-837-0311

Heavy Trash

Council Member Sullivan would like to remind his constituents that during the month of August the city's Solid Waste Management Department will pick up Junk Waste. Junk Waste is defined as furniture, appliances and other bulky material. Resident's who receive City of Houston trash pick up service can legally put junk waste out at 6:00 p.m. the Friday before their designated pick up day. Tree Waste is accepted during Junk Waste months.

However, to ensure that your Tree Waste is recycled you may hold your Tree Waste materials until the next Tree Waste designated month or take it to a neighborhood depository. For more information, please visit the Solid Waste Management Department's website at www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

City Hall Annex
900 Bagby
First Floor
Houston, TX 77002

Monica Aizpurua, Chief of Staff
Karina Moreno, District Outreach Coordinator
Kelly Waterman, North Sector Manager
Allie VanDeventer, South Sector Manager

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